

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This submission accompanies an RCE and serves as a response to the Advisory Action issued July 19, 2006 and a further response to the Final Office Action of March 9, 2006 issued in connection with the instant application. A Petition for Extension of Time (two months) and the fee therefor are submitted herewith.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner has opted to interpret the Takahashi prior art (5,929,908) in a manner which is contended to read as an information acquiring means with conditions for exposure being diversely varied.

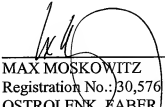
In order to further underscore the distinction of the instant claims over the prior art, independent claim 1 has been further amended to specifically provide that the information acquiring means is effective to acquire information, prior to actual photographing, concerning the dynamic range by specific reference to a "first condition for exposure and a second condition for exposure different from the first condition for exposure". Furthermore, the information synthesizing means synthesizes the information concerning dynamic range based on the first and second conditions for exposure acquired by the information acquiring means.

It is believed and respectfully submitted that these amendments further delineate and unambiguously distinguish the invention of claim 1 and its dependent claims from the cited prior art.

Favorable consideration of the application and issuance of a Notice of Allowance thereon are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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